Discovery of gas reserves

4262. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas reserves discovered so far and the names of the States having the gas reserves;

(b) the quantity of gas in the stock of the reserves as explorable and the quantity estimated, but not explorable at present;

(c) the details of gas used as fuel and also as energy source of power; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to revive any quantity of gas being exhausted everyday?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and private/joint venture companies have established 2328.51 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) of in-place gas reserves in the country. The States where gas reserves exist are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura.

(b) So far, out of 2328.51 BCM of in-place gas reserves, 1380 BCM of gas has been established under the category of recoverable reserves. Prognosticated resources hydrocarbons in the country are above 28 Billion Metric Tonnes and every effort is being made to assess and access these reserves.

(c) The produced gas is being utilised as fuel for domestic use as well as in other uses such as industry, power generation, fertilizer and petro-chemicals.

(d) For exploration of hydrocarbons, Government have taken the following steps:—

(i) New areas for further exploration have been opened up under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under NELP, 90 exploration blocks have been awarded to various companies in four rounds of exploratory bidding held till now. The exploration work in NELP blocks has led to 19 oil/gas discoveries so far. 20 more exploration blocks have been offered for international competitive bidding under the fifth round of NELP.

(ii) Accelerated exploration programme by National Oil Companies (NOCs) in areas awarded to them on a nomination basis.